

REVISION OF PROPOSALS CONCERNING *AMBLEMA* RAFINESQUE,
1820. Z.N.(S.) 1699
(see volume 22, pages 196-197)

By Arthur H. Clarke, Jr. (National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Canada)
and
William J. Clench (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.)

Since submission of our application regarding stabilization of the nominal genus *Amblesma* Rafinesque, 1820, and of its nominal type-species *Amblesma costata* Rafinesque, 1820, additional information has come to light which, we believe, justifies reconsideration of two of the four requests included in that application.

The names *Amblesma plicata* (Say), 1817 (= *Unio plicata* Say) and *Amblesma costata* Rafinesque, 1820, (loc. cit.) both appear in the recently published literature for supposedly distinct taxa. Based on a revisionary work now underway by one of us (A.H.C.) it has been concluded that *Amblesma plicata* is a stunted ecophenotype of *Amblesma costata* and that, since *Amblesma plicata* is the senior synonym, it must take precedence. This decision has also been reached independently by Stein (1963) and is also implied by the usage of Stansbery (1964).

If *Amblesma* Rafinesque, (1820) is to be placed on the Official List of Generic Names, the identity of its type-species must be firmly established, and the oldest available name for that species must be placed on the Official List of Specific Names. Accordingly it is hereby requested that items 5(b) and 5(c) of the original application regarding *Amblesma* be amended to read as follows:

5(b) to place the generic name *Amblesma* Rafinesque, 1820 (gender : feminine) (type-species, by designation by Frierson, 1914, *Amblesma costata* Rafinesque, 1820 (= *Unio plicata* Say, 1817)) on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;

5(c) to place the specific name *plicata* Say, 1817, as published in the binomen *Unio plicata* (the earliest available name for the type-species of *Amblesma* Rafinesque, 1820) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

LITERATURE CITED

- SAY, THOMAS. 1817. *Nicholson's Encyclopedia*, 1st Amer. ed., art. Conchology, pl. 3, fig. 2
STANSBERY, D. H. 1964. *Amer. Malacological Union, An. Rep. for 1964*, p. 26
STEIN, C. B. 1963. The Unionidae of the Olentangy River in Central Ohio. M.Sc. thesis, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

REPLY TO TAMS' COMMENT CONCERNING HÜBNER'S
"ERSTE ZUTRÄGE" Z.N.(S.) 1611

(see vol. 22, pages 137-138)

By Emilio Berio (Museum of Nat. Hist., Genoa, Italy)

I fully agree with Mr. W. H. T. Tams that the rejection of Tentamen was a wrong action, and caused many complications.

It was wrong because the names were from Hübner and were adopted by his contemporaries with the same meaning; it was erroneous because the Tentamen was printed and distributed for scientific purposes (it was sent for asking other people's opinion, but this is the case for all scientific papers); it caused complications because it replaced monotypic genera with many polytypic genera that involved serious uncertainties in the fixation of the type-species.

I realize that those who voted against the Tentamen were misled from the true legal problem by practical considerations that now, with more experience, we deem quite artificial.